

We claim:

- 1 1. An inlet flange to be used in a filter system comprising:
  - 2 a body capable of being attached to filter medium and allowing
  - 3 fluids to enter said filter medium;
  - 4 a lip located on the edges of said body to enable said body to be
  - 5 supported in a filter housing; said lip comprising a first surface
  - 6 and a second surface; said first surface being capable of resting on
  - 7 a surface edge of the housing while said second surface extends above
  - 8 the housing; and
  - 9 sealing material located at said first and second surfaces to
  - 10 prevent fluids from passing between said lip and the housing and
  - 11 between said lip and the lid.
- 1 2. The inlet flange as claimed in claim 1, wherein said sealing
- 2 material is comprised of an elastomer material.
- 1 3. The inlet flange as claimed in claim 1, wherein said sealing
- 2 material is comprised of a thermoplastic elastomer.
- 1 4. The inlet flange as claimed in claim 1, wherein said sealing
- 2 material is an integral part of said lip.
- 1 5. The inlet flange as claimed in claim 1, wherein said sealing
- 2 material is mechanically affixed to said lip.

1 6. The inlet flange as claimed in claim 1, wherein a portion of said  
2 sealing material extends from said second surface of said lip in a  
3 direction parallel to said lid such that said extended portion is  
4 capable of creating a seal against said lid due to internal pressure  
5 in the filtering system.

1 7. The filtering system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said sealing  
2 material will be compressed by the lid when the lid is covering the  
3 housing.

1 8. The filtering system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said sealing  
2 material will be compressed by the surface edge of the housing when  
3 the lid is covering the housing.

1 9. The inlet flange as claimed in claim 1, wherein said lip, said  
2 first surface and said second surfaces extend to be interposed  
3 between the lid and housing at the location where the lid and housing  
4 connect.

1 10. The inlet flange as claimed in claim 2, wherein said sealing  
2 material is an integral part of said lip.

1 11.The inlet flange as claimed in claim 2, wherein a portion of said  
2 sealing material extends from said second surface of said lip in a  
3 direction parallel to the lid such that said extended portion is  
4 capable of creating a pressure seal against the lid.

1 12.The inlet flange as claimed in claim 4, wherein a portion of said  
2 sealing material extends from said second surface of said lip in a  
3 direction parallel to the lid such that said extended portion is  
4 capable of creating a pressure seal against the lid.

1 13.The inlet flange as claimed in claim 1, wherein said body is  
2 circular in shape and said lip is located along the circumferential  
3 edges of said body.

1 14.An inlet flange for use in a filter system comprising:  
2 a substantially rigid body, capable of attaching to a filter  
3 media;  
4 a substantially rigid first lip portion located at the edges of  
5 said body; said first lip portion extending away from said body in an  
6 upward and outward direction;  
7 a substantially rigid second lip portion located at the end of  
8 said first lip portion, said second lip portion extending away from  
9 said first lip portion in a downward and outward direction; and

10        sealing material located at the end of said first lip portion and  
11 the end of said second lip portion.

1    15. The inlet flange as claimed in claim 14, wherein said sealing  
2 material is comprised of an elastomer.

1    16. The inlet flange as claimed in claim 14, wherein said sealing  
2 material is comprised of a thermoplastic elastomer.

1    17. The inlet flange as claimed in claim 14, wherein said sealing  
2 material is mechanically affixed to said lip.

1    18. The inlet flange as claimed in claim 14, wherein said sealing  
2 material is an integral part of said first lip portion and said  
3 second lip portion.

1    19. The inlet flange as claimed in claim 14, wherein a portion of  
2 said sealing material extends away from the end of said first portion  
3 in an inwardly direction.

1    20. The inlet flange as claimed in claim 14, wherein the location  
2 where said second portion extends from said first portion comprises  
3 of a flat surface.

1 21. The inlet flange as claimed in claim 14, wherein said  
2 substantially rigid body is circular and said first lip portion is  
3 located at the circumferential edges of said body.

1 22. A filtering system comprising:  
2 a housing;  
3 a lid capable of being securely closed over said housing;  
4 an inlet flange capable of supporting a filter media inside said  
5 housing; said flange having a lip on the edges of said flange; said  
6 lip being capable of resting on said housing while contacting said  
7 lid when securely closed over said housing;  
8 sealing material located where said lip contacts said housing  
9 and said lid.

1 23. The filtering system as claimed in claim 22, wherein said seal  
2 is comprised of an elastomer.

1 24. The inlet flange as claimed in claim 22, wherein said sealing  
2 material is comprised of a thermoplastic elastomer.

1 25. The filtering system as claimed in claim 22, wherein said  
2 sealing material is an integral part of said lip.

1 26. The inlet flange as claimed in claim 22, wherein said sealing  
2 material is mechanically affixed to said lip.

1 27. The filtering system as claimed in claim 22, wherein said  
2 sealing material extends away from said lip in a direction parallel  
3 to said lid and in contact with said lid to create a pressure seal  
4 against said lid.

1 28. The filtering system as claimed in claim 22, wherein said lid  
2 exerts pressure on said lip when securely closed over said housing.